



DIRTYFISH  
THEATER

*Have your cake*  
and drink it, too



DIRTYFISH THEATER PRESENTS  
**WEDDING  
CAKE  
VODKA**

**MARCH 3-6, 2016**  
**THE THREE LEACHES THEATRE**

**DIRTYFISH Theater presents**  
**WEDDING CAKE VODKA**  
**AN EVENING OF SHORT PLAYS**

**Act One**

**“Fuel”**

by **Leslie C. Lewis**

Jody | **Geri Crawley**  
Mariel | **Debe Hultgren**  
Bill | **Leroy Leonard**

**“Kindred Spirits”**

by **Jeffrey Neuman**

Robert | **Jim Hunt**  
Charles | **Paul Borrillo**

**“The Shelf Life of Sushi”**

by **William Missouri Downs**

Olga | **Máire Higgins**  
Allen | **Christopher Hayes**

**“Do It For Francine”**

by **Lisa Wagner Erickson**

Willow | **Máire Higgins**  
Ben | **Brad Wagner**

**INTERMISSION****INTERMISSION****INTERMISSION**

**Act Two**

**“Boomtown IDP”**

by **Nina Alice Miller**

Dylan | **Brad Wagner**  
Joe | **K. Monahan**  
Aaron | **Christopher Hayes**

**“The Facts Are These”**

by **Ellen K. Graham**

Adam | **Leroy Leonard**  
Brent | **Brad Wagner**  
Francie | **Geri Crawley**  
Ramona | **K. Monahan**  
Jay | **Debe Hultgren**  
Sawyer | **Máire Higgins**

**“Vodka for Life”**

by **Tami Canaday**

Chuck | **Brad Wagner**  
Summer | **Máire Higgins**  
Laurel | **Debe Hultgren**  
Caleb | **Leroy Leonard**

# The Playwrights

Tami Canaday  
William Missouri Downs  
Lisa Wagner Erickson  
Ellen K. Graham  
Leslie C. Lewis  
Nina Alice Miller  
Jeffrey Neuman

# The Actors

Paul Borrillo	Jim Hunt
Geri Crawley	Leroy Leonard
Christopher Hayes	K. Monahan
Máire Higgins	Brad Wagner
Debe Hultgren	

# The Production Team

**Director** | Heidi Schmidt  
**Dramaturg** | Sarah Johnson  
**Stage Manager** | Sarah Baughman  
**Sound Design** | Jason Ducat  
**Costumes** | Leslie C. Lewis and Nina Alice Miller  
**Props** | Ellen K. Graham  
**Assistant Director** | Laura Lounge  
**Scenic Consultant** | David J. Castellano  
**Fight Choreography** | Heidi Schmidt & Brad Wagner

# Special Thanks to ...

Anne Sandoe, David J. Castellano, Andryn & Levi Arithson,  
Sophie Hernando Kofman, Susan Lyles, The Three Leaches,  
Beth Foster and Curious Theatre Company

# Who's onstage?



**Paul Borrillo** is a veteran of New York stage, television and film. Some of his television credits include *Kate and Allie* with Jane Curtin, *Diagnosis Murder* with Dick Van Dyke and *The Perry Mason Mysteries* with the late Raymond Burr. Paul received acting awards for his performances as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Arvada Center and Uncle Peck in *How I Learned to Drive* at Curious Theater Company. In 2015 he played the role of Walt Disney at the Catamounts Theater in Boulder and Dr. Dysart in *Equus* at the Avenue Theater in Denver.



**Geri Crawley** is making her first appearance in a DIRTYFISH Theater production. Past stage performances include *In the Red and Brown Water* (Curious); *Doubt, a Parable* (Parker Theatre) and others, including reader's theatre performances of *All God's Children* and *Catawampus* (One Night Stand). Geri's radio background has transitioned into work as a voice-over talent, with clients including KRMA-TV, Rocky Mountain PBS. "Many thanks for supporting live theatre."



**Debe Hultgren** is thrilled to be working with DIRTYFISH Theater. Most recently she was seen playing Nathalie/Miss Margaret MacKenzie/Tempest Storm in *A Round-Heeled Woman* (The Edge Theater). One of her most favorite roles was slinging steel on the Ellie Caulkins stage as a Sword Fighter in Opera Colorado's *Romeo and Juliet*. Other favorites include Becca in *Rabbit Hole* (Longmont Theatre Company), Gwendolyn Pigeon in *The Odd Couple*, and Maggie in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Colorado Actor's Theatre). Deb was the 2010 Camera's Eye Boulder County Theater Award recipient for Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Dramatic Role.



**Chris Hayes** is a performer born and raised in the city of Denver. He first gained experience on the stage at the University of Colorado at Boulder studying theatre. There he was a member of the BFA Theatre-Performance Program where he starred in projects such as *Rent*, *Marisol*, *Black Top Sky* and *12 Angry Men*. Recent performances include *Arcadia* at Metro State University and *The Flick* at Curious Theatre.



**Máire Higgins** is a new actor to the Denver area, and is very pleased to be making her Colorado stage debut with DIRTYFISH Theatre! Máire holds an MPhil in Theatre from Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, and has been fortunate enough to work in theatre and film since graduating. Her favorite projects (until WCV) include performing in a national tour of *Love, Loss, and What I Wore*, directed by Karen Carpenter, and originating the lead role of *Mom in Moonson*, at the Yale School of Drama Cabaret. Special thanks to Devin Hougardy for his support!



**Jim Hunt** is an artistic company member at Curious Theatre and an ensemble member at BETC. Recent roles include Beverly Weston in *August: Osage County* (Creede Rep); Scrooge in *A Puppet Christmas Carol* (Breckenridge Backstage); Ives in *Charles Ives Take Me Home* (Curious Theatre); and Dr. Yahuda in *Hysteria*, Copernicus in *And the Sun Stood Still*, Kaufmann in *Bach at Leipzig*, and Woolsey in *Ghost-Writer* (BETC). Jim directs CTG's Henry Awards and received the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Leroy Leonard** has been acting and writing in Denver since 1978. He has performed with The Edge Theatre, Paragon Theatre, The LIDA Project, Vintage Theatre, and Miners Alley, among others. Leroy was most recently seen as Gaev in *The Cherry Orchard* at Germinal Stage and Owen Musser in *The Foreigner* at Spotlight Theatre. Leroy also performs as Merry-Andrew Afoot, a one person children's theatre.



**K. Monahan** is a theatre student at the University of Denver, and they are so excited to be performing in their first show here in the city! They would like to thank their family and friends, as well as all of the faculty at DU. A special thanks to their partner, Artemis Cooper.



**Brad Wagner** is honored to be a part of this wonderful company and bringing these original pieces to life. He recently made his seventh appearance with One Night Stand Theater, and he appeared on stage with Foothills Theater Company in *All in the Timing* and played electric guitar for *Bonnie and Clyde: The Musical* (Equinox). All the love in the world to family, friends and this incredible group of people who put this together. Grab yourself a vodka and enjoy the show!

# Who's backstage?

**Heidi Schmidt (Director)** is a director, dramaturg, and teacher. Directing: CU Boulder (*Picnic, Melancholy Play*), readings for Curious New Voices, Athena Project, and Paragon Theatre Ensemble. Dramaturgy: Denver Center Theatre Company (*Tribes*), LOCAL Theater Company (*Faith*), Colorado Shakespeare Festival (*The Merry Wives Of Windsor, Macbeth, Richard III, The Inspector General*); school tours of *The Taming Of The Shrew, Twelfth Night*). Heidi is an Associate Artist with LOCAL Theater, and is completing her PhD at CU-Boulder.

**Sarah Johnson (Dramaturg)** is an experienced production and new play dramaturg. Her previous credits include dramaturgy for professional productions at Portland Stage, Colorado Shakespeare Festival as well as academic productions at CU-Boulder, University of Iowa and University of Denver. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Theatre at the University of Colorado-Boulder. She completed her MFA in Dramaturgy at the University of Iowa and her BA in Theatre and Anthropology from the University of Denver.

**Sarah Baughman (Stage Manager)** is a recent graduate of the University of Colorado Boulder. Currently she is the stage manager of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival Outreach Tour's all-female production of *The Taming of the Shrew*. She is very excited to announce that she will be returning to her hometown in the coming months to serve as an intern assistant stage manager for Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

**Jason Ducat (Sound Design)** is an Artistic Company Member at Curious Theatre Company where he has designed over 15 productions including *Venus in Fur, Good People, The Brothers Size, 9 Circles, and Astronomical Sunset*. As a resident sound designer at the Denver Center Theatre Company he designed over 20 productions in seven seasons. Other designs include *Henry V, Henry IV, The Tempest, Macbeth* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival), *The Few* (Boulder Ensemble Theatre) and *Medea* (The Edge Theatre Company).

**Laura Lounge (Assistant Director)** has been a Denver-based actor and director for almost nine years. She is always looking for new work/playwrights to collaborate with and was most recently seen in The Catamounts' production of *Spirits to Enforce* (Memory Lass/Susan) and *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche* (Ginny) at the Avenue. @theatrics11

**David J. Castellano (Scenic Consultant)** graduated from the University of Evansville with a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology and Ohio University with a MFA in Scenic and Costume Design. Since then, he has designed for several companies including Richard Frankel Productions, William Ivey Long Studios, Stella Adler Studio of Acting, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Phoenix Opera, and Stray Cat Theatre.

# Who wrote these plays?

**Tami Canaday's** plays have been performed in the US, Canada, and Japan. Her literary work has been featured in *The Best Stage Scenes*, *The Best Women's Stage Monologues*, *The Good Ear Review*, *Young Women's Monologs from Contemporary Plays*, and *Singular Voices*, among others. Next summer, Denver's Pandemic Collective will be producing her horror piece *A Bit of Snuff*. [www.tamicanaday.com](http://www.tamicanaday.com)

**William Missouri Downs** has had 150 productions of his plays from the Kennedy Center to the San Diego Rep and won a dozen writing awards including two rolling premieres from the National New Play Network. He's twice been a finalist at the Eugene O'Neill. Samuel French and Playscripts have published his plays. [www.williammissouridowns.com](http://www.williammissouridowns.com)

**Lisa Wagner Erickson's** plays have been produced at venues across the US including The Edge Theatre, Acoma Center, Shop Theater, and Playwrights of the Western Region (Denver); Estrogenius Extended Festival (NYC); and Marran Theater, Stickball Productions (Boston), among others. Lisa's play, *Step On Me*, was a winner at the Region VII Kennedy Center College Festival. [lisawagnerericksonplaywright.weebly.com](http://lisawagnerericksonplaywright.weebly.com)

**Ellen K. Graham** has been a finalist for the Shakespeare's Sister Fellowship, Clubbed Thumb's Biennial Commission, the O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, and the Global Age Project, and has worked with many theatre companies in the Denver area. In April, Athena Project will be presenting her play *The Wave That Set The Fire* as part of its Plays-In-Progress Series. [ellenkgraham.wordpress.com](http://ellenkgraham.wordpress.com)

**Leslie C. Lewis** is a writer and producer with a background as a musician, conflict resolution specialist, and non-profit executive. Her short and full-length plays have received performances, staged readings and workshops in the West. Leslie is a co-founder, co-producer and emcee of Rough Draught Playwrights, a live performance venue presenting Colorado playwrights' works-in-progress. [www.leslieclewis.com](http://www.leslieclewis.com)

**Nina Alice Miller** is co-founder and co-producer of Rough Draught Playwrights: A Theatrical Playground, and an occasional dramaturg (Athena Project, University of Georgia, Mizel Center). Her plays include *The Living* (Athena Project Festival, 2012), *Nano Diving* (Red Rocks Community College Western Showcase, 2011) and *Bullies and Friends* (commissioned for Mirror Image Arts, 2013), among many others.

**Jeffrey Neuman** is an award-winning playwright whose work has been performed at theaters and festivals across the US, Australia and the United Kingdom. His plays have been produced by Emerging Artists Theatre Company, Edinburgh Fringe, Edge Theater Company, FUSION Theatre Company and the Samuel French Off Off Broadway Festival, among many others. [www.theaterbyjeff.com](http://www.theaterbyjeff.com)



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## What is DIRTYFISH?

Please don't look up the words "dirty fish" in the Urban Dictionary unless you want to be totally grossed out. You just looked it up didn't you. So why did we name a theatre company this, because with this theatre the playwrights are in charge and in today's theatre playwrights are too often nothing more than unwanted leftovers, the dirty fish of the theatre. Will this company last? We don't know. Will it succeed? We don't care. Will every play be brilliant? No. But for one brief moment the bottom dwellers of the theatre will stage the plays they want to stage without getting permission from the chaperones of the theatre world.

Seven award-winning playwrights with hundreds of productions to their credit formed this collective. The members include **Ellen K. Graham, Jeffrey Neuman, Leslie C. Lewis, Lisa Wagner Erickson, Nina Alice Miller, Tami Canaday** and **William Missouri Downs**. DIRTYFISH has no artistic director, no literary manager, no reading committee and no overall artistic vision – it has nothing, nothing but each individual playwright's unique words. And these seven writers could not be more dissimilar. You might ask, why was this particular play chosen for production? For one reason, and one reason only: the playwright said so.

So, we hope you enjoy our first venture, this unusual evening of uninhibited, un-chaperoned, unlike-anything-you've-seen-before theatre.